

## District Councillor Report for Sellindge Parish Council – 12 March 2024

**Sellindge Developments** – I am still waiting for the Planning Team to set a date for the public meeting.

**Budget Meeting** - held on Wednesday 28 February had to be adjourned for over an hour while protesters were removed from the Gallery. The protest was about the situation in Gaza and one gentleman in particular, refused to sit down or stop shouting and eventually had to be evicted by the police. There was then a debate on the Housing Revenue Account and the Revenue Budget and associated documents. As is required by law, the budget is a balanced budget which has been achieved through a better than expected Government settlement of just under £1m additional funding and £3.6m of savings, (£2m on staff and £1.6m on services), Lower inflation and interest rates also contributed. Cuts include reduction in bins across the District, reduced street cleansing in some areas, area officer team reduced, rural verge cutting reduced to once per year, no Air Show for 2024, Tall Ships project (joint with Boulogne) axed and all fees and charges increased. Garden Waste charges will rise from £48 to £60 and collection of bulk items will rise from £35 for one item to £53 for three items. As from 1 April, car parking charges at the Sandgate Road and Coastal Park car parks will be to 9 pm instead of 6 pm. This all results in a Council Tax increase of 2.94% (£280.08 at Band D – an increase of £8.01 on the current charge). Voting on the budget was – in favour - 13 Green/Lib Dem, abstentions 10 Labour/1 independent and against 5 Conservatives/1 independent. On the housing front, social rents will increase by 7.7% which equates to an increase of £7.37 per week or £390.61 per annum. The budget debate can be accessed via this link [Council - Wednesday 28 February 2024, 7:00pm - Folkestone & Hythe webcasting \(public-i.tv\)](#)

**Landslips** – there have been a number of landslips in Folkestone. The Road of Remembrance has suffered quite badly with initially trees blocking the road followed by two further slips. The road will not be reopened until the area has been assessed as safe to work in, and due to the most recent slips and continued rainfall this could be some time. The District Council is working closely with KCC who are the Highways Authority. Further details on all landslides can be found on the website.

**Sellindge Surgery** – I attended the Patients Participation Group yesterday and on the agenda was the update on premises and staff. It was also disappointing to note that over 170 patients have not turned up for their appointments over the last three months. It needs to be pointed out that other patients could have taken these slots and the importance of cancelling an appointment if patients are unable to make it.

Contact – [jennyhollingsbee@gmail.com](mailto:jennyhollingsbee@gmail.com) Mobile 07887918458